

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange
on Thursday, 6th September 2018.**

Those present:-

Margaret Williams, Graham Wylie, Elaine Hedley, Wilma Campbell, Peter Foster, Janine Forster, Paul Walters, Dorothy Oughton, Jean Peacock, Mark Middlemiss. Richard Lawley.

Also in attendance:

Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin and the Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 7 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence:

Nic Prior,

60. The Chair, Paul Walters opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

61. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock - HCA

Wilma Campbell - HCA and EPICH

62. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2018.

The Minutes were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster and Seconded by Dorothy Oughton.

63. Hurworth Neighbourhood Plan

Nigel Goddard gave a presentation detailing the construction of the Plan and the steps which needed to be taken to complete the process.

The project started in 2016, when the village thought that it may be allocated a large amount of houses, following the first Banks Group application. A team was formed and a grant obtained to develop a comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan.

The process started with the development of a detailed Questionnaire, which was distributed to every household in the Parish. There was a good response with 432 questionnaires being filled in and returned. The questionnaire contained both Neighbourhood planning information and local Parish matters.

A consultant was contracted to prepare a Housing Needs Analysis, and this proved to be the most essential factor in the compilation of the data needed to draw up a Vision of the future of Hurworth over the next 15 years.

The draft Plan is now complete, and the process becomes complex. Several councils have embarked on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, but very few have actually completed the Plan and received Borough approval.

The rules are complex and embrace 17 different Policies, each requires evidence to support the statements being made. Hence the Hurworth Plan has many Appendices.

Once the Plan is accepted by Darlington Borough Council, after their have carried out their own reviews and validation, it can be used to influence future housing and building schemes for Hurworth. The Plan cannot dictate the quantity of houses to be built, but it can influence the type and size of the houses, also the most appropriate locations.

The next steps are:-

- The Parish Council to study the draft and modify any sections which they believe need changes.
- Copies of the Plan, with the Appendices and accompanying maps will be sent the DBC, who will carry out their schedule of processes.
- HPC is required to hold a Public Meeting to present the Plan and seek comments and suggestions from the residents. This includes a six week evaluation period. The Plan needs to be put onto the Parish web site and made available at several locations in Hurworth, such as the Grange and the Mustard Tree.
- Once DBC formally accept the Plan, they must carry out a Referendum of the whole Parish, with an 'Accept' or 'Reject' vote.
- This will end the process, with either a formal acceptance, or it goes in the bin!

Nigel thanked all the team who have helped in the development of this document, and in particular Hugh Jackson and Peter Allan, who coaxed and cajoled him into doing all this work. It was agreed that Mark Middlemiss will help to prepare a small brochure which will be available for residents to take and read. **Action Mark Middlemiss.**

The Council thanked Nigel and he received a hearty and well-earned round of applause.

64. Matters Arising

a. Outstanding Court Case. The Chair updated the meeting with the status of this outstanding Court case in which an allotment holder is taking the Council to Court. The Council has made two offers to the Claimant, both of which have been rejected. The Council has taken out a 28 day extension to try to resolve the issue. The Council's lawyer is coming from London on 17th September to prepare the Case with the defence witnesses. The Case will be heard by the Fast Track Court, which will enable the Council to reclaim all costs from the Claimant, upon winning the Case.

b. Village Security

Peter Foster expressed his concern about the lack of police presence in the rural areas of Darlington Borough and in particular in Hurworth Parish. He quoted incidents which have occurred in the village which were disturbing for the residents. He suggested that the Parish Council engage a security company to patrol the Parish, and specifically the locations where drug dealing and criminal activities are likely to take place.

Margaret Williams said that the cost of a contract of this nature would be high and would run into several hundreds of pounds every month.

Mark Middlemiss suggested that a more appropriate solution will be in install about ten CCTV Surveillance cameras in critical locations. This would have the benefit of providing actual evidence which could be used by the police to track down the offenders and take appropriate action against them. A number of locations were mentioned.

Wilma Campbell made the point that a security company would not have authority to take action, whereas providing evidence for the police could bring the culprits to justice.

A motion was tabled by Mark Middlemiss, seconded by Paul Walters that the camera solution should be further investigated and quotations obtained. Voting For 10, Against 1.

1. Action Mark Middlemiss to obtain details of the proposed solution.

c. Graham Wylie asked whether the issue of the complaint from a resident about dogs and dog fouling in the church yard had been resolved. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Vicar had visited the Parish Office, and this has resulted in the visit to the offended resident, who is now pacified and suitable notices have now been appended to the church gates. The church has been very co-operative in resolving this matter.

65. Public Participation

a. A resident raised a complaint about overgrown hedges which are making the pathways inaccessible for prams and wheelchairs. The house owners need to cut their hedge back. Several instances were identified.

b. The planning application for Miller Homes has reached its final Reserved Matters stage, but it appears that not all interested residents have been advised of this. **Cllr Kelley will look into this immediately.**

c. There was discussion about the definition of Affordable Houses, and this was clarified as the houses are identical to others on the estate, but attract a twenty percent discount for those who qualify for the scheme. This twenty percent discount stays with the house in perpetuity, whenever it may be sold.

d. It has been noticed that the Croft House building project has made application for some alterations to their Planning Application. The Council stated that it has no objections to these modifications, as the number and type of houses are acceptable.

e. A resident raised concern about the width of Roundhill Road as it appears that Bellway have taken some ground and reduced the road and pavement width. **Cllr Tostevin agreed to investigate this and report back.** There was speculation that the future Traffic scheme may include a Priority One Way Traffic layout.

f. There are a large number of potholes on Roundhill Road, and two people at the meeting reported that their cars had been damaged and they had incurred repair bills. **Action Clerk to report.**

g. David Crisp complained bitterly that the refuse bin outside the Fish and Chip shop is infected and smells very bad. He has been spraying it to kill the maggots. It has been reported to StreetScene, but the bin needs changing, even the refuse collectors have commented on its condition **Action Clerk**

h. Mr Dryden reported that it appears that Bellway contractors are pumping water from the site, even after our spell of very dry weather. This raises concern about flooding into Westfield Drive when heavy rain falls. **Action Council to raise this with Frances Nicholson of Bellway.**

66. Planning Applications –Richard Lawley reported:-

Planning Report – 6th SEPTEMBER 2018

18/00576/RMI Land at rear of 21 Roundhill Road

Approval of details of appearance for

	3 houses (16/00989/FUL 12/5/17)
18/00602/FUL	Former Croft House Variation of condition 3 attached to plan (13/01001/FUL 4/3/15) erection of 6 Dwellings.
18/00536/LBC	Church School Blind Lane Listed building consent to replace 7 windows And sills on side elevation and replacement glazing and openers to windows on front elevation.
18/00460/RMI	Land at Banks development 95 houses Reserved matters (17/01194/OUT 30/5/18)
18/00535/FUL	2 Croft Meadows Croft Road Erection of a single side extension to form Bedroom/shower room.
18/00462/LU	Hurworth Moor Burma Road Application of a certificate of lawfulness for Existing use of building as a dwelling house
18/00536/LBC	4 Church School Blind Lane To replace 7 windows and sills on side elevation and replacement glazing and openers to windows on front elevation.
18/00556/FUL	River Bank Tees View Installation of Interpretive Sculpture as part of Of the Tees Sculpture Trail.
18/00656/CON	2 nd phase Roundhill Road To release condition 6 attached to (17/01194/OUT)
18/00636/FUL	16 The Chase Erection of two extensions to front and side Elevations with part two storey, part single extension to rear.
18/00740/ADV	Land off Roundhill Road Display of 2 V Boards and 4 flag poles.
18/00717/FUL	28 Elmfield Road

Summer house/garden store to the rear and a pitched roof over existing detached garage.

18/00773/FUL 6 Roundhill Close

Alt. To existing attached garage including conversion into habitable use and erection of detached single garage to the side.

18/00768/CON Sundial House 9 The Green

Appl. of reserved conditions on 18/00529/FUL

Demolition of existing conservatory to rear and replace single storey oak framed orangery extension.

18/00761/PDTF 7 Croft Road **Already passed delegated decision**
20/8/18.

18/00786/CON 9 The Green

Condition relating to 18/00530/LBC 6/8/18.

67. Tree Report - Peter Foster reported:-

- a. All the Tree Surveys have now been completed and sent to the Council. These will be reviewed and an Action List prepared.
- b. Quotations have been submitted for the two oak trees to be planted on the Manorfield. These will be selected next week and the trees planted in the previously agreed locations. A plaque will now be designed. **Action Council.**
- c. The trees on the Village Green are all in good condition. They have had their canopies uplifted so the branches do not trail on the ground. The Christmas tree has also been uplifted so that the trunk is now visible. Twelve more trees need pruning.
- d. Graham Wylie raised a problem with a tree in Emerson Road. This tree is leaning and poses a danger to residents. Peter Foster recommended that the tree be felled. **Action: Clerk to obtain quotation and take action.**
- e. **Hawkswood.** A report has been prepared covering the state of the trees in the area near Hawkswood and Eden Close.

68. Open Spaces

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

OPEN SPACES/ EPICH

EPICH submitted their recommendations about wildlife friendly features being included in housing developments to the DBC Draft Local Plan from both the Open Spaces and Environmental perspective.

In the free 'One Darlington' magazine which we all get on page 4 'A greener Darlington' DBC are pledging to put bat & bird boxes on all new housing developments.

There was a very positive response from Fran Nicholson, planning manager from Bellway whom we met earlier this week. She has asked that details of the wildlife friendly features be forwarded to her and she will discuss them with her colleagues.

Yesterday I received this email from Eddie Burton / Design Manager / Miller Homes

“Yes, I received your information and it has been passed on to our landscape designer. I am pleased to say that we are able to incorporate most of the general principles set out and for some aspects such as species we have contacted our landscape installation contractor for further advice and pricing. Due to the time scales for the planning application, it may be that some of the features need to be added following the decision but I can send you across the updates if you'd like.

We are happy to be part of the community and continue the design and character so our clients feel at home in the village.”

The planters for the Village Hall have been constructed, sited and planted up. David Crisp has volunteered for watering duties.

Repairs to the village benches are still ongoing.

The hedge on Westfield Drive will be cut back and tidied up within the next few weeks.

The second hand ride- on grass cutter has been purchased and put to good use around the area.

EPICH's participation in the Scarecrow Festival raised the community awareness of how to look after, protect and hopefully increase hedgehog numbers in the village. Hedgehog highway signs are available to purchase at a discounted price from us.

We are also able to offer swift boxes for sale at a subsidised price to parishioners.

EPICH volunteers have strimmed and cleared the wildflower meadow. It will need a second cut with the new grass cutter and then we are hoping to find a local farmer who has a power harrow to give the area a deeper rake so new wildflower seeds can be sown.

Members also met up with Laura Tedstone from DWT who has given advice on ways to complete wildlife surveys within the Parish. Hopefully this will start next Spring.

EPICH beekeepers have collected their honey supers and will be selling local honey at the Country Fair.

Margaret Williams reported an overhanging hedge at West End, which is a house which is up for sale. Action: **Clerk to request Carvers Estate Agent to cut back the hedge.**

Mr Dryden reported an overgrown hedge at Mowbray Drive cornered which needs attention. **Action Clerk to get this reduced.**

A complaint has been received about the hedge at Westfield Drive. **Action: This will be cut next week.**

69. Highways - Margaret Williams reported:-

Highways Report July and August 2018

Speed monitor – Lindon Court A167

Total no of vehicles 269,588

Max speed 65 mph on 4/7/2018@ 15.00 hrs

65 mph on 13/8/2018 @ 23.30 hrs

32.6% of all vehicles exceeded the 30 mph speed limit

Average speeder travelled at 33.5 mph

Speed monitor -Hurworth Road incoming –outside Academy

Total no of vehicles 161,123

Max speed 75 mph on 4/7/2018 @ 0.25 hrs

75 mph on 9/8/2018 @ 0.05 hrs

49.5% of all vehicles exceeded the 30 mph speed limit

Average speeder travelled at 33.4 mph

Speed monitor Roundhill Road incoming

Total no of vehicles 102,150

Max speed 60 mph on 16/7/2018 @15.00 hrs

65 mph on 9/8/2018 @ 13.00 hrs

13.2% of all vehicles exceeded the 30 mph speed limit

Average speeder 33.0 mph

The data still shows that the main area where speeding occurs is outside the Academy on Hurworth Road- these results are similar to those that have been recorded every month for the last year or so!

Margaret Williams informed the Council of the progress being made by DBC as contained in a report from Andrew Casey, viz:-

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX to insert

SpeedWatch.

Elaine Hedley reported that further SpeedWatch sessions have been conducted in July and August. Forty nine instances of speeding have been reported to the police, and the police have confirmed that letters have been sent to offenders.

Elaine Hedley and Dorothy Oughton have been recommended for an award for their diligence in conducting SpeedWatch checks, and making meaningful reports to the police.

70. Matters of Interest

- a. **Subsidence Claim.** The Vice Chair advised the Council that an insurance claim has been received from a resident in Hawkswood Drive. The Council is preparing a summary of the history of the property and tree reports in this location, and all the details are being forwarded to Zurich Insurance Company.
- b. **Summer projects:-**

Wilma Campbell read out a report which had been prepared by Bree Stamp, viz:-

Events

- Scarecrow Festival
- Textiles with Charlotte Liddle
- Adventure Trail
- Pirate Craggy Beard

Marketing

- Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/290881061453015/> which now has 98 members
- Hurworth Live
- Leaflets throughout the village

Child Attendance

- 22 for textiles
- 13 for Trail
- 23 for Craggy Beard

Costings

- Breakeven but this was in large because of the excess from Scarecrow Festival as all events were loss making.
- I have a ledger which I can bring up to the Council next Tuesday

Notes for next time

- Would have ideally got some exposure on the notice boards and website for the latter 3 events
- Ideally would have help from someone who knows the parents at the primary school to encourage them
- Need to organise on a variety of days to ensure people can make it
- Lower cost events

--The Chair thanked Bree for all the effort she had put into arranging these events.

- c. McMillan Coffee Morning: The Chair informed the meeting that a Coffee Morning is being held at Hurworth Village Hall on Saturday, 29th September in aid of the Macmillan Hospice. All are welcome, for more information contact the organiser Michelle Edwards
- d.

71. Police Report Graham Wylie reported :-

1. Hurworth Crime figures June 2018

ASB 2

27/06 – Hurworth Road – youths with alcohol causing nuisance in the area and being excessively loud – no trace

30/06 – Strait lane – Youths reportedly drinking and are noisy on a green in the area – youths left prior to police arrival

Road Related 1

08/06 – Croft Road – collision, van vs motorcycle – no injuries

Criminal Damage 1

05/06 – Westfield drive – Scratches on cars bonnet.

Theft 4

08/06 – Croft Road – theft of two CCTV cameras from a site

16/06 – Snipe Lane – Theft of keys and wallet from a person whilst paying golf.

23/06 – Hurworth Rd – Theft of a wallet from a camp site (working mens Club)

29/06 – Croft Road – Theft of a scooter from a lay by

Burglary 1

20/06 – Snipe Lane – attempted burglary of equipment form the gold club

Suspicious 4

07/06 – Hurworth Moor – suspicious object found near an old well – turned out to be a glass bottle

16/06 – Croft Road – males on site acting suspiciously

19/06 – Radcliffe Court – light was left on in the surgery overnight – all in order

28/06 – Rockliffe Hall – males with air rifles trespassing – no trace

2. Hurworth Crime Figures July 2018

ASB 3

06/07 – Blackwell Golf Club – group of youths with alcohol trespassed onto golf grounds.- no trace

13/07 – Hawkswood – loud music playing form an address

21/07 – Neasham RD Hurworth moor – youths on off road vehicles causing nuisance – area search no trace

Road Related 1

18/07 – Roundhill road – a vehicle went off the road and through the fence onto a field – concerns for persons involved as they weren't with the car – driver found and was fit and well.

29/07 – Sockburn Lane – possible ‘boy speed racers’ on the road – area search no trace

Criminal Damage 1

02/07 – Rockliffe Hall Grounds – sprinkle system damaged by youths trespassing

30/07 – Rockliffe Hall – male causing some damage in the bar area - arrested

Theft 2

09/07 – Mowbray Drive – Theft of plants from the front garden

11/07 – Rockliffe Hall – Theft of a handbag from within the building

Suspicious

28/07 – Tees View – Suspicious males in a van outside of a building site – turned out to be a site manager – all in order

31/07 – Westfield Drive – large group of children playing near the primary school – all in order.

72. Project Updates

a. **Community Notice Boards.** Paul Walters reported that the fourth large notice board will be arriving in about two weeks, after a short manufacturing delay. The small notice boards have not yet been ordered.

b. **Hurworth Grange boilers** - Jean Peacock reported that the HCA have now been installed and working well.

c. **Hurworth Grange Car Park.** HCA has accepted the recommendations put forward By Cllr Middlemiss, and have started to implement the three phase car park extension. The first section, which will provide about forty extra places is almost complete and partially already in use.

The second and third phases will be designed in October.

d. **Speed trailer Art Exhibition.** Mark Middlemiss reported that the trailer was parked near the Academy to have an immediate effect on reducing traffic speed. However, a resident reported that it was creating an obstruction, and the police requested that it be moved. It is currently in the grounds of the Grange. Clarification of the law regarding the use of the trailer is being sought, prior to positioning it again. **Action Mark Middlemiss.**

e. **Extension of the disabled friendly pathway.**

The Chair reported that the application for a grant had been rejected. The Council expressed their desire to implement this project, even without a grant. The cost is circa £4500. This could incorporate a BMX track.

The Council has mixed feelings about the BMX track. Wilma Campbell expressed the concerns of the EPICH Committee, who questioned the installation of a BMX track inside a Nature reserve. There are, also, insurance considerations, and the premium will be raised because of health and safety risks. Nigel Goddard added that the BMX track would also require supervision.

Regarding the funding, the Council decided that until the Court case is concluded, the Council has a possible cash requirement if the Court does not award all legal costs against the Claimant. Therefore this project has been deferred until January 2019.

- f. **Defibrillators.** The Chair informed the meeting that the Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust has recommended that the Parish Council install two more units, one near the Otter and Fish Inn and the other near the Comet Inn.
The subject was debated, Jean Peacock commenting that the unit at Hurworth Grange has not yet been used after four years – this in many ways is good news.

The Council believed it should take notice of the recommendation being made by the Rogers Trust, who had obviously considered this issue and who have offered to fund one unit if the Council pay for the other.

A Motion was tabled by Paul Walters, seconded by Elaine Hedley. The voting was for the motion 9: Against 2.

Action: Clerk to make all the arrangements.

- g. **Use of the School Bus.** Graham Wylie reported that all the arrangements were now in hand. The school has added Graham's name to their authorised drivers for insurance purposes. The Council will pay for the Insurance £100 plus the cost of fuel.
Graham will prepare a route timetable and the service can start soon.
- h. **Village History Plaque:** Margaret Williams reported that she has obtained prices and designs for the lectern type plaque, and has been in contact with Chris Lloyd, our local village historian, to assist with the details to be presented on the plaque. The cost of the plaque will be circa £700, plus design and wording.
- i. The Chair informed the meeting that the Council has had a meeting with Frances Nicholson, the Bellway representative for the Hurworth housing contract. This contact has now been established and future meetings and dialogue will ensue.
- j. Of immediate interest is Bellway have discovered a number of archaeological items on the site, which are believed to date back to Saxon times. Durham University has been working on the site for six weeks to record the findings. Bellway have invited interested persons to visit the site on 14th and 15th September; two parties of each of no more than 15 persons can be accommodated, one on each day.
- k. **Parish Chronicle:** Elaine Hedley circulated a list of articles for councillors to prepare for the September newsletter. The Chair requested that the following newsletter should go out at the end of February 2019, so that the end of the Electoral period and forthcoming local elections can be well advertised.

73. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment having been distributed to all councillors has accepted by the meeting.

<u>Accounts for Payment as at 31st August 2018</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Skipbridge Signs	103085	Replaces 103 054	0.00
Wellers Hedleys Law	103086	Legal Fees - Allotment Court case	1200.00
Cumbria Clock Co.	103087	Church clock maintenance	174.00
N. Goddard planters	103088	Notice board planters	211.99
M Harrison	103089	Trailer hitch & odd jobs	100.00
M Harrison Car park	103090	Grange car park extension	500.00
CCMCC Court fees	103091	Legal Fees - Allotment Court case	100.00
Mazars audit fee	103092	Annual audit fee	360.00
M Harrison car park	103093	Grange car park extension	600.00
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Public Loans Board	DD	Loan payment	258.62
Bree Stamp scarecrows	103079	Scarecrow festival contribution	300.00
N Goddard	103094	Planters for Village Hall outside display	113.51
M Harrison	103095	Strait Lane strimming	50.00
Bob Iles	103096	Salary	372.65
P D Allan	103097	Salary	691.40
Inland Revenue	103098	PAYE	198.00
P D Allan	102099	Admin expenses	68.74
Total Expenditure for August 2018			5301.21

74. Financial Report as at 30th June 2018

The Financial report, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The Detailed Report is in the Minutes Annexe, and on the web site under 'Financial Reports'.

Audit report. The external audit is now complete and there are no formal notations regarding the accounts.

The Notice to allow residents to inspect the Council's financial records was displayed for six weeks, and nobody contacted the Council in this respect.

75. Web Site and Guest Book - Mark Middlemiss reported:-

There has been two new Guest Book dialogues, both have been responded to. There have been 1000 hits on the web site, which is encouraging. There is lot of activity on Hurworth Live, the Facebook social media site.

On this subject, Elaine Hedley reported that she had attended the Small and Medium Councils Meeting, and they had discussed the Social Media and the responsibilities of councils towards Social Media.

Elaine circulated a document detailing the subject, and the Chair requested that all Councillors read this document, and that the subject will be on the Agenda for the October meeting.

76. Parish Walks - Janine Forster reported:-

Two walks had been arranged in July and August.

The first one became a non-event due to very heavy rain and a lack of attenders.

The final walk of the season was around Hurworth Grange, and Peter Foster gave a very interesting talk about the history of the grounds and the many species of trees. This was attended by about twenty people, and BBQ followed.

Broken stiles have been reported on Pathway 8, and also three stiles on Pathway 11.

Action Clerk.

77. Allotment Report -- Graham Wylie reported:-

The Strait Lane allotments held a Fun Day on 25th August, which was well attended and proved a successful event. The council had provided £200 towards prizes and expenses for the event. This is to become an annual event.

Two plots have been reported as untidy, and the Chairman of the Allotment Committee has contacted the plot holders.

A meeting of the Allotment Holders was held on 27th August. An Equipment Register will be put into place to track all equipment purchased by the Council.

A review of the Allotment Rules has been deferred until after the Court Case.

Two skips are to be delivered to Strait Lane allotments at the end of October. **Action Clerk.**

78. Association Reports

Peter Foster has attended the CDALC meeting in Durham, all the details will be circulated through the Parish Clerk.

The Chair referred to a letter from Derek Dodswell regarding the non-attendance of council representatives at the Darlington Association of Parish Councils. The last meeting had to be abandoned due to having no quorum.

The Chair made it clear that Association representatives have a responsibility to attend the meetings and should make arrangements for a substitute to attend in their absence, or in the worst case at least put in their apology.

The letter asked whether this Association should continue. After discussion the Chair asked for a volunteer to be the representative, and Elaine Hedley offered to accept this role. The Council agreed.

79. Any Other Business (Non Financial)

- a. Dorothy Oughton said that she intends to hold another village clean-up day at the end of September.
It was noted that Nic Prior has undertaken the clean-up of the area around the strait Lane allotments.
- b. Mark Middlemiss said that he will be still extremely busy but should have more time after the end of September.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:34pm